IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY

ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION

WRIT PETITION (LODGING) NO.1347 OF 2007

Mr. Sanjay Radheshyam Shukla ... Petitioner

Vs.

Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co. ... Respondent

Ms. Anita Bhaktwani for the petitioner.

Mr. Ajit Nair for the respondent.

CORAM : SWATANTER KUMAR, C.J. &
SMT. RANJANA DESAI, J.

DATED : JULY 12, 2007.

P.C.:-

1. The learned counsel appearing for the respondent-company states that the present writ petition is not maintainable as the petitioner has alternate remedy to approach the Consumer Redressal Forum which is a special body constituted for entertaining electricity disputes in relation to bills. He further states that the petitioner should be directed to pay some amount to the

respondent-company. However, the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner states that the respondent-company has been repeatedly harassing the petitioner as every time they raise bill of higher amount, disconnect the electric supply and on determination, reduce the amount and reconnect the electric supply. It is stated by the learned counsel for the petitioner that even in the previous bill, an amount of Rs.5,93,520/- has been shown which finally was reduced to Rs.2,43,520/-. Now a bill has been raised by the respondent-company for an amount of Rs.1,38,930/-. However, the officer of the respondent-company himself has corrected it to Rs.75,577.96.

2. We are unable to appreciate this behaviour of the respondent-company. We do expect the authorities to regulate a proper procedure to redress the grievance of the consumers. For the reasons so recorded, without determining the question of maintainability, we direct the petitioner to approach the said Consumer Redressal Forum and raise a proper dispute in accordance with law. However, in the event the petitioner makes payment of an amount of Rs.50,000/- to the respondent-company within one week from today, the electric supply shall be

reconnected and during the pendency of those proceedings, the electric supply shall not be disconnected in relation to the present bill. The petition is disposed of with no order as to costs.

[CHIEF JUSTICE]

[SMT. RANJANA DESAI, J.]